

Foreign Agricultural Service Turkey Regional NEWS

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Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture

With offices in Ankara and Istanbul, Turkey;

Almaty, Kazakhstan and Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Covering Turkey, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

Welcome to the Foreign Agricultural Service's *Regional News* from Ankara, Turkey. In coming issues, we plan to keep you up-to-date on USDA programs and our activities in the region. Hopefully, this information will assist you in your work in Turkey and Central Asia. The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has offices in the U.S. Embassies in Ankara, Almaty and Tashkent as well as in the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul. As always we encourage you to contact us directly with any questions or ideas. All of us at the FAS offices in Turkey and the region wish you a happy New Year and we look forward to working with you soon.

Jim Higgiston
Agricultural Counselor

The United States announced the first case of BSE on December 23, 2003. As more information becomes available we suggest you refer to the following Web site:
www.usda.gov/news/releases

Also in this edition: Updates on Bioterrorism and Solid-Wood Packing Materials that impact exports to the U.S. See page three.

Turkey GSM Export Credit News!!

On December 8, the General Sales Manager announced a \$400 million GSM-102 program, as well as a \$5 million GSM-103 program, a \$10 million Supplier Credit Program and a \$5 million Facility Credit Guarantee Program.

The GSM-102 program was announced in two allocations of \$200 million each. The first allocation was used quickly and the second allocation will be released in the near future.

Our office has received numerous inquiries on the size and status of this program, as well as some concerns. The GSM program, in any country, is limited by two main factors: country risk and bank risk. Current country exposure in Turkey is very high; that is to say that successive large programs, with a three-year tenor, have resulted in significant CCC exposure in Turkey. Individual banks also have an established limit. CCC and FAS have recognized improvements in the banking sector and Turkish economy and these changes are reflected in our determination to maintain the GSM program in Turkey.

We welcome your additional questions and comments on the GSM program.

The FAS staff wishes you a
Happy New Year!!
Mutlu Yillar!!

Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan GSM Export Credit News...

We are also happy to announce continuing GSM programs for FY 2004 in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan.

On October 29, the General Sales Manager announced a \$10 million GSM-102 program, and a \$15 million Supplier Credit Program for Kazakhstan. The GSM-102 Program has a tenor of up to one year, and coverage includes freight.

On November 10, the General Sales Manager announced a \$15 million GSM-102 program, as well as a \$5 million Supplier Credit Program for Azerbaijan. The GSM-102 program has a tenor of three years, and coverage includes freight. A larger program was announced this year due to Azerbaijan's need to import milling wheat, which is in limited supply in the region.

Did you know...

- ❑ **USDA Press Releases** can be obtained by visiting www.fas.usda.gov and clicking on "**News and Information**" and then clicking on "**News Releases**". From the next page, complete the online form to find news releases by **Country**, **Program**, or **Commodity**.
- ❑ **U.S. Supplier Lists** can be obtained by visiting the same website, clicking on "**Buying U.S. Products**", and then clicking on "**U.S. Supplier List**". From the next page, complete the on-line form to obtain an immediate list of exporters by the type of product that you select.

We encourage you to visit the FAS website to look for other valuable information. In the near future, the FAS Ankara website will be updated to contain information relevant to Turkey and the region. In the meantime, feel free to visit www.fastur.key.org

Record Year for U.S.-Turkish Bilateral Agricultural Trade

IN MY 2003, U.S.-Turkish bilateral agricultural trade reached record levels. Bilateral trade was almost \$1.2 billion. The United States set a record for agriculture exports in MY 2003 shipping over \$860 million. Cotton, corn, soybeans and soybean products as well as rice led the way. However, the U.S. sent a record amount of hides and skins last year to Turkey. Although the Turkish market remains mostly a bulk commodity market the increase is still impressive considering that less than 10 years ago, the United States exported over \$150 million in unmanufactured tobacco. Today, that figure is less than \$2 million. Turkey has become the second largest single market for cotton and as Turkey's poultry and livestock industry have developed, an important market for U.S. corn and soy. Notable consumer products finding their way into the Turkish market include pet foods and tree nuts. For more information on trade with Turkey and other statistics, refer to the FAS Home Page at www.FAS.usda.gov.

**ALERT: NEW REGULATIONS ON
SOLID-WOOD PACKING MATERIALS
ENTERING THE UNITED STATES**

On May 20, 2003, USDA announced a new requirement that all Solid Wood Packing Material entering the United States either be heat-treated or fumigated and marked accordingly. That implementation, originally scheduled for January 2004, has been delayed in the United States until April or May 2004.

The following web site is offered in order to keep abreast of this issue:

<http://www.nappo.org/standards/woodpacking-bil.htm>

Recent Agricultural Reports:

- ❖ Turkey Cotton Update
- ❖ Turkey Soybean Update

Upcoming Reports:

- ❖ Retail Foods Report
- ❖ Food Processing
- ❖ HRI Food Service Sector

All agricultural Reports and Press Releases published by FAS Turkey and our offices around the world are available at:

www.fas.usda.gov

**Food and Drug Administration
(FDA)**

Bioterrorism Act

On December 12, 2003, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) implemented new regulations concerning the importation of food into the United States as part of the Bioterrorism Act. Turkish food exporters, processors, shippers, producers or anyone sending food to the United States should seek information on the new regulations immediately in order to become familiar with the new procedures.

The FDA has set up a help desk and web site to assist with this process. For more information:

Help Desk

Phone: 800-216-7331 or 301-375-0156

Fax: 301-210-0247

email: furls@fda.gov

**Web site: www.fda.gov and
click on the link for
“Bioterrorism Act”**

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